



PRESS RELEASE

Public Affairs Office
Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command
1562 Mitscher Avenue,
Suite 250
Norfolk, Va. 23551-2487
(757) 836-3600
Fax: (757) 836-3601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Navy to Begin EIS for Strike Fighter Transition

The Navy has published a notice of intent in the Federal Register to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with transitioning the six remaining Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana-based strike fighter squadrons and the NAS Oceana-based Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS) that use the FA-18C/D Hornet aircraft to the FA-18E/F Super Hornet aircraft. This EIS will include a comprehensive noise impact analysis that will consider aircraft operations at NAS Oceana in Virginia Beach, Va., and Field Carrier Landing Practice operations at Naval Auxiliary Landing Field Fentress in Chesapeake, Va.

This transition is needed because Hornet aircraft are being used at higher rates than projected in support of world-wide operations. This has resulted in greater airframe fatigue, which is rapidly accelerating the date at which Hornet aircraft will reach the end of its service life and need to be retired. The proposed transition would provide the NAS Oceana-based strike fighter community with newer, more capable and more reliable aircraft using existing assets.

The proposed transition would result in a one-for-one aircraft replacement and would occur in-place at NAS Oceana. The transition would begin no earlier than 2018, and is expected to be complete by 2028. NAS Oceana-based Super Hornet aircraft operate in a similar fashion to Hornet aircraft and would continue to do so. Other than minor modifications to aircraft auxiliary power utilities in hangars and installation of Super Hornet-compatible electrical distribution on the flight line, no major construction or facility modifications are planned.

Today's announcement begins a 45-day public scoping period for the EIS. The scoping period will end on October 26, 2015. Scoping provides the public with an opportunity to submit comments on environmental concerns that they believe should be addressed in the EIS. Two public scoping meetings will be held at the following times and locations:

Tuesday, September 29, 2015
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Columbian Club
1236 Prosperity Road, Virginia Beach, Va.

Wednesday, September 30, 2015
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Centerville Baptist Church
908 Centerville Turnpike South, Chesapeake, Va.

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The meetings will be held in an open house format. There will be no formal presentations. Representatives of the Navy will be available to answer general questions and receive oral and/or written comments. There are four ways to submit comments:

- 1) Attend one of the public scoping meetings and provide written comments.
- 2) Attend one of the public scoping meetings and talk to the stenographer who can record your comments.
- 3) Submit comments electronically through the project website at:
www.oceanastrikefightereis.com.
- 4) Mail comments to: NAS Oceana EIS Project Manager (Code EV21/TW), Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic, 6506 Hampton Boulevard, Norfolk, Virginia 23508.

To ensure comments are considered during the preparation of the EIS, comments must be postmarked (if mailed) or received no later than October 26, 2015.